



Internationally renowned artist Gustave Nouel explores the idea of “Cultural Tourism”
Art workshops now being conducted at the Access Art Gallery are a first step

Gustave Nouel, Arubian born, now a long –time resident of Holland, has been back on the island on and off during the past year, working with the Instituto di Cultura and Arte Aruba, the Foundation he help initiate, to promote the concept of “Cultural Tourism” for Aruba.

At the moment he is conducting art workshops for enthusiastic local students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the second floor showrooms of Access Art Gallery on the Caya Betico Croes in Downtown Oranjestad. This is one of many workshops that have been held over the past year, but unlike the others, is made up of only island residents. Visiting groups from German Adult Educational School, the Witte Oliphant Art Group for the Mentally Challenged and artists from Holland and the Palet Art Magazine have all had the pleasure of drawing and painting Aruba’s many beautiful landscapes, and creating portraits of the attractive natives.

The present series of workshops is being conducted over a three-month period. The first month, students have focused on the basics of pencil portraiture, using a lovely Arubian woman as a model. They started with photographs and then progressed to working with a live model, and from beginner to advanced, the gentle constructive criticisms and advice that Gustave gives them reveals a vast improvement of technique from one session to the next. Eventually the students will move on to painting techniques, “but it is important to build a strong foundation” reports Nouel.

Though quite successful internationally, and despite his work being displayed in nearly 200 exhibitions world wide, Gustave Nouel feels a strong connection and loyalty to his homeland, Aruba. An entire series of his artwork is devoted to the natural beauty of the island and its people. He feels driven to channel that deep feeling into seeing the tourist population involve themselves with the native population in a joint venture of exploring the island through art and the artistic appreciation of Aruba natural assets. He stated that conferences with the Aruba Tourist Authority has generated great interest in the idea, and from the warm reception and enthusiastic response this series of workshops has received from the island dwellers he believes that the concept can be realized, and be successful. For this series, they took on many more students that they planned to, and had to turn people away.

“The students are very motivated, very enthusiastic, and they even take time to do their homework, so they are progressing very rapidly,” reports Nouel. “From the first to the second lesson I already saw a huge advance in their technique. From what they are learning here they can go on to any media, but they will get a solid foundation first.”

The first round of classes took place over September. A new session will start next month, and anyone that is interested in participating can inquire at the Access Art Gallery, if there is still space available. The cost of the workshops is 150 florins per month, including all materials, some excellent company, and an exhilarating experience. The works of Gustave Nouel and his biography can be viewed online at www.nouel.net.